

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 199964

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ORIGIN EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 IO-03 PM-03 SP-02 INRE-00 SSO-00

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:DLRANARD:LM

APPROVED BY EA:PCHABIB

EA/J:WCSHERMAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 199964

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA, KS

SUBJECT: KOREAN-JAPANESE RELATIONS

REF: A. SEOUL 6002; B. STATE 198225; C. TOKYO 11738;

D. TOKYO 11802

1. JAPANESE AMBASSADOR YASUKAWA CAME IN AFTERNOON
SEPTEMBER 11 TO INFORM HABIB OF LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN
ROKG/GOJ DISPUTE, WHICH COINCIDE WITH REPORTS FROM SEOUL
(REF A) AND TOKYO (REF D). WE ARE RELIEVED THAT IMBROGLIO
APPEARS TO BE MOVING AT LONG LAST TO SETTLEMENT.

2. WORDING JAPANESE HAVE VOLUNTARILY ADOPTED CONCERNING
"MORAL RESPONSIBILITY" AS WELL AS INDIRECT BUT NEVERTHELESS
CLEAR REFERENCE IN LETTER TO CHOSEN SOREN, SHOWS THEY HAVE
BEEN REMARKABLY FORTHCOMING IN AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE THIS
PERPLEXING PROBLEM. AS WE NOW UNDERSTAND SITUATION,
REMAINING OBSTACLE APPEARS TO BE INSISTENCE OF KOREANS
THAT JAPANESE AGREE TO WRITTEN MINUTE OF DISCUSSION
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PAGE 02 STATE 199964

BETWEEN SHIINA AND PRESIDENT PARK REGARDING CHOSEN SOREN.

IN SHIINA, JAPANESE HAVE CHOSEN AN EMISSARY OF CONSIDERABLE PRESTIGE AND REPUTATION, WHOM WE NOTE KOREANS ALSO CONSIDERED A TOP CHOICE FOR THIS DIFFICULT MISSION. GIVEN WILLINGNESS OF JAPANESE TO MEET KOREANS MORE THAN HALF WAY, WE BELIEVE THAT ROK DEMANDS FOR AGREED WRITTEN RECORD OF SHIINA'S DISCUSSIONS IS EXCESSIVE AND UNNECESSARY. IN OUR OPINION, GOJ HAS GONE AS FAR AS THEY CAN AND TIME HAS NOW

COME TO BRING THIS DISTRESSING AFFAIR TO A CLOSE ON WHAT APPEARS TO US TO BE MUTUALLY REASONABLE TERMS.

3. CHARGE INSTRUCTED TO MAKE ABOVE VIEWS KNOWN TO FONMIN KIM. ADDITIONALLY, YOU MAY SAY THAT WE HAVE BEFORE US OTHER MATTERS OF CONSIDERABLE URGENCY AFFECTING OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS. WITH THE UN OPENING NEXT WEEK, WE HAVE LOST ENOUGH TIME IN FACING THESE ISSUES.

4. WHILE WE ARE HOPEFUL WE ARE CLOSE TO AN END OF THIS DISPUTE, SHOULD ANY SNARLS DEVELOP CHARGE SHOULD PROCEED IMMEDIATELY TO MAKE OUR VIEWS KNOWN PERSONALLY TO PRIMIN. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, ASSASSINATION, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE199964
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DLARANARD:LM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740253-0842
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740954/aaaabtvn.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: A. SEOUL 6002; B. STATE 198225; C. T, OKYO 11738;
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 JUL 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <13 MAR 2003 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KOREAN-JAPANESE RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, JA, KS, US
To: SEOUL
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005